IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the abstract of the disclosure as follows.

An error correction method wherein an incoming data stream is divided into symbols. The divided data stream is sampled in threads, with samples taken at fixed time intervals. The fixed time intervals are slightly longer than the time ~~interval of the~~ durations of bursts of noise in the data. A correction symbol is thus mixed with symbols of the divided data stream that have a fixed time separation. This generates an error corrected data stream. In a second embodiment, the same correction symbol is inserted in more than one thread. The threads are selected so that they partially overlap. Thus, a noise burst on the channel that overwhelms one of the threads will be within the limits of another one of the threads. The symbols that overlap may be determined using the overlapping symbols of the threads that are not overwhelmed, thus allowing the remainder of the non-overlapped threads to be determined.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 5 as follows.

The goal of any error correcting scheme is to compensate for interference-induced ~~random~~ errors in the transmission medium (including the recorded media). In particular, many transmission media are susceptible to burst errors, where the errors tend to occur in groups. For instance, compact disks produce error bursts caused by dust or scratches. RF transmissions have error bursts caused by lightning. The general approach is to use an error correction process and to spread out the burst so that the error correction process does not get overwhelmed. The present approach differs in how the spreading of the burst is accomplished.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 17, line 36 as follows.

(4) The copies of the selected symbols are placed onto one or more of the stacks 14, as described in paragraph (3). ~~Each of these stacks~~ The stack 14 represents a thread, since error correction symbols are calculated for the symbols on a given stack 14. At the receiving end, error correction is done on a stack by stack basis. Note that a given symbol (such as D_6 in the example depicted in Fig. 4a) may participate in more than one thread (that is, may be placed on more than one stack 14). If that is the case, it might not be able to be corrected from one thread, but may be from another. The corrected symbol may be fed back to the first thread's error correction computation 16 and, since the symbol is known, other symbol's of the first thread may now be corrected.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 19, line 19 as follows.

Referring to Fig. 6, it is a flow diagram illustrating a second embodiment of the error correction method 20. In the second embodiment of the error correction method 20, the incoming data stream is divided 21 into symbols. The divided data stream is then sampled 22 and placed into in threads, with samples taken at fixed time intervals. The same correction symbol is inserted 24 in more than one of the threads. The data stream is transmitted 25. The transmitted data stream is received 26. Error detection and correction computations are performed 27 on the data and error correction symbols. An error corrected data stream is output 28.